



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

*United States Attorney Donald W. Washington
Western District of Louisiana*

United States Courthouse • 300 Fannin Street, Suite 3201 • Shreveport, Louisiana 71101-3068 • (318) 676-3600
United States Courthouse • 800 Lafayette Street, Suite 2200 • Lafayette, Louisiana 70501-7206 • (337) 262-6618

For Immediate Release
August 15, 2006

Contact: Donald W. Washington (337-262-6618)
William J. Flanagan (318-676-3600)

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/law>

ARRESTS MADE AFTER INDICTMENT INVOLVING INSURANCE FRAUD SCHEME

Insurance fraud involved staged car accidents

Shreveport, Louisiana . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced today that a federal grand jury has returned an indictment against individuals charging them with staging car accidents and making false reports of injuries and damages in order to defraud automobile insurance companies. The indictment was made public today following the execution of arrest warrants of the participants. At the time of this press release, numerous arrests had been made. Initial appearances on these charges are at 2:00 p.m. today in United States District Court in Shreveport.

A total of 17 defendants were named in the indictment which charges one count of conspiracy, 39 counts of mail fraud and 19 counts of health care fraud. The charges cover numerous car accidents which have occurred since January 1998. A listing of each defendant and associated criminal charges is attached.

The insurance companies alleged to be victims include State Farm Insurance Company,

Progressive Insurance Company, Allstate Insurance Company and American National Property and Casualty Insurance Company.

Each count carries a maximum penalty of 5 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, or both. Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. United States Sentencing Guidelines established by the United States Congress and the United States Sentencing Commission are only used as guidelines by the judge in determining the appropriate sentence. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

An indictment is merely an accusation and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. Defendants are entitled to a presumption of innocence under the law, and the government has the burden of proving every element of the charges beyond a reasonable doubt.

This case was investigated by the Louisiana State Police and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Earl M. Campbell.

SEE LISTING OF DEFENDANTS ATTACHED

DEFENDANT	AGE AND HOMETOWN	CHARGES
1) CARL THEUS	44 years of age Ringgold, LA	Conspiracy to commit mail fraud; mail fraud; health care fraud
2) ORMA MAE ALLUMS	52 years of age Ringgold, LA	Conspiracy to commit mail fraud; mail fraud; health care fraud
3) ASHLEY JENNETTE BAKER	21 years of age Coushatta, LA	Conspiracy to commit mail fraud; health care fraud
4) JOHNNY WAYNE CUNNINGHAM	45 years of age Ringgold, LA	Conspiracy to commit mail fraud; mail fraud; health care fraud
5) LISA JACKSON DREW	32 years of age Ringgold, LA	Conspiracy to commit mail fraud; mail fraud; health care fraud
6) MARTY L. DRIGGERS	36 years of age	Conspiracy to commit mail fraud; mail fraud; health care fraud
7) ROBERT LEE ADAMS	57 years of age Ringgold, LA	Conspiracy to commit mail fraud; mail fraud; health care fraud
8) SHRNATHA TRENICE EDWARD	27 years of age Bossier City, LA	Conspiracy to commit mail fraud; mail fraud; health care fraud
9) MELBALY ROBERSON a/k/a MELBALY ROBINSON	50 years of age Ringgold, LA	Conspiracy to commit mail fraud; mail fraud; health care fraud
10) GARY ROBINSON	46 years of age Ringgold, LA	Conspiracy to commit mail fraud; mail fraud
11) CARL STERLING RUFFIN	48 years of age Ringgold, LA	Conspiracy to commit mail fraud; mail fraud; health care fraud
12) STEPHANIE HILL RUFFIN	44 years of age Ringgold, LA	Conspiracy to commit mail fraud; mail fraud; health care fraud
13) ROBERT EARL STAFFORD	52 years of age Ringgold, LA	Conspiracy to commit mail fraud; mail fraud; health care fraud
14) KEETCHIA RAMBO THEUS	45 years of age Ringgold, LA	Conspiracy to commit mail fraud; mail fraud
15) VICTOR LAMOND THEUS	33 years of age Ringgold, LA	Conspiracy to commit mail fraud; mail fraud; health care fraud
16) JACQUELINE WOODS	27 years of age Ringgold, LA	Conspiracy to commit mail fraud; mail fraud; health care fraud
17) VICKIE WRIGHT	31 years of age Ringgold, LA	Conspiracy to commit mail fraud; mail fraud; health care fraud

#####